

03-MARCH | THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (B)

First Reading: Exodus 20:1-17

The ten commandments, given to Moses on Mount Sinai

Responsorial: John 6:68

R. / You, Lord, have the message of eternal life

Second reading: 1 Corinthians 1:22-25

Christ crucified is our focus, calling a halt to all factions and disputes

Gospel: John 2:13-25

Jesus purifies the Temple of commercial defilement; then proclaims himself the New Temple

“Believe in me

And you will see the glory of God”

-: Jesus

With the passage of time and the familiarity of the cross or crucifix as a religious symbol it may be that we have lost the sense of what Paul and John are saying. We almost seem comfortable with the idea of a crucified Lord. Perhaps the scandal it contains would be clearer to us if we used the symbol of a gallows or an electric chair. Ever since Good Friday our faith is not in God the miracle-worker but in the God who chose to be known through weakness and vulnerability. The love of the new and everlasting covenant is to be experienced not in the glorious parting of the Red Sea but in the love and forgiveness offered by Jesus on the cross.

The true temple of God is no longer to be found in some holy and faraway place but is within, as Jesus has made us all temples of the Holy Spirit and in the process challenges us to know God not through mere ritual observance but 'in Spirit and in truth' (Jn 4:23-24).

*Think of what is most central to your life.
Is that a concern of God too?*

Lord, keep me close to all you love and value in life.

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Parish Clergy: Fr. Joseph Kaduthanam CMI, Fr Joseph Chacko CMI,

Fr. Tebin Francis CMI

**SUNDAY,
03-March**

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Mass: 9.00am, 10.45am, 12.30pm & 6.30pm
4.00pm - *Konkani Mass*

**MONDAY,
04-March**

Mass: 9.30am

**TUESDAY,
05-March**

Mass: 9.30am & 6.30pm

**WEDNESDAY,
06-March**

Mass: 9.30am
Stations of the Cross led by youth: 6.30pm

**THURSDAY,
07-March**

Mass: 9.30am & 6.30pm

**FRIDAY,
08-March**

Stations of the Cross: 11.30am
Mass: 12.00noon
Stations of the Cross led by children: 6.00pm

**SATURDAY,
09-March**

Mass: 9.30am
6.30pm - *Sunday Vigil Mass*

**SUNDAY,
10-March**

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Mass: 9.00am, 10.45am, 12.30pm & 6.30pm

POPE'S INTENTION – MARCH 2024

For new Martyrs: Let us pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world might imbue the Church with their courage and missionary drive.

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK

Martin Mongan, Louis Gabriel and Catherine Stock that the Lord may lay His healing hands on them and bring them His peace.

ANNUAL PARISH LENTEN RETREAT

The Parish Lenten Retreat will take place on 15th, 16th and 17th March starting each day with the Holy Rosary at 5.30pm. The Retreat will be led by Bishop Anthony Pascal Rebello, Bishop of Francistown, Botswana. Bishop Anthony was born in Nairobi Kenya and has held many ministries and has served as a missionary in Kenya, Antigua and Angola. He was ordained Bishop of Francistown in July 2021. There will be **RETIRING COLLECTION** for the Lenten Retreat after all the Retreat Masses and all Sunday Masses.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY

Thank you for giving to CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal this Lent. Your generous donations, given in love, will support families around the world and help them with the resources to feed their families for good. You can still give online at cafod.org.uk.

LENTEN MESSAGE FROM THE CARDINAL

Friday 8th March – dedicated time for prayer for peace in the Holy Land

“I write, first, to thank you most sincerely for the generosity with which you and your parishioners responded to my request for a collection to assist with the relief of suffering in Gaza and the West Bank. We have been able to send over £31,000 to the Latin Patriarchate. This will make a real difference to people living in such desperate circumstances.

As we are all aware, the situation in the Holy Land has not improved since I last wrote, with failed negotiations, increasing humanitarian distress and a rising death toll. As Lent begins, I would like to urge that we continue our efforts, not least in prayer. And so I ask that, on **Friday 8 March**, there is a special focus of prayer for the Holy Land across the diocese.

I hope that your Lenten journey this year will be a fruitful one. Those three pillars of observance-prayer, fasting and almsgiving-are so helpful, and I pray that you will find a way to make use of each of them, in whatever way or form, in the weeks ahead.”

+Vincent Nichols

LENT AT ST JOSEPH'S 2024 – STATIONS OF THE CROSS

There will be Stations of the Cross every Friday at 11.30am before the 12noon Mass, at 6.00pm led by children and every Wednesday at 6.30pm led by youth.

ANNUAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY AT WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL, SATURDAY 25th MAY 2024 AT 2:30PM.

The Cardinal is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their *5th 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2024*. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give your following details to the parish office: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).

CARDINAL'S LENTEN APPEAL 2024

Please show your support for the Cardinal's Lenten appeal. Funds raised this year will go towards projects across our Diocese. They will be shared between Marriage & Family Life, Youth Ministry, The Education Service and Caritas Westminster. Cardinal Nichols has expressed his gratitude to everyone who supports the Appeal, with whatever they can afford. **Please take a donation envelope as you leave Mass today**. You can use the envelope to make your donation **or by using the QR code** which you can scan with a phone camera to make your donation online. Thank you for your generosity. For more information, please visit www.CardinalsLentenAppeal.org.uk

St JOHN PASSION – J.S. Bach

Westminster Cathedral Thursday 14 March 2024 7.30pm

A spiritual preparation to the Holy Week, performed by the Westminster Cathedral Choir. Tickets available to purchase at a discount of 30% at www.ticketmaster.co.uk/event/1F00602BD7A81B4F?did=sjp30 and use **password SJP30**

PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORGE

There is a 7 Day - 7 Night pilgrimage to Medjugorje planned for this year to start on April 16th. For those interested please register your name with Carmen at the earliest possible. For more details please look at the church notice board.

PRO-LIFE LAW AMENDMENT

Support an amendment to reduce our abortion law from 24 weeks to 22 weeks. Babies born prematurely at 22 weeks are thriving and there is a contradiction in our abortion law. Collect a postcard today from the back of the church and post it to your MP in support of this amendment.